



USAID | NIGERIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ABUJA DATELINE

DECEMBER 2008

Investing in People



Packaging family planning drugs for retail at the Society for Family Health warehouse, Orile-Iganmu, Lagos state

“The United States, through USAID and other U.S. government agencies, provides ongoing support for maternal and child health care in Nigeria as part of its broader policy priority to invest in people. ‘Investing in People’ is one of the central pillars of its Framework for Partnership with Nigeria.”

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USAID agri-business partner wins United Nations business and development award

On September 24, 2008, Olam Nigeria Limited, a private sector partner of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), received the 2008 World Business and Development Award (WBDA). This award was also presented to nine other recipients during the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Olam Nigeria was selected by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a winner for demonstrating a clear linkage between core business practices and the contribution the project makes to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2006, USAID/Nigeria formed a public-private partnership with Olam Nigeria to promote commercial agriculture development through the USAID Maximizing Agricultural Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites (MARKETS) activity managed by Chemonics International. Olam Nigeria Limited is a global leader in supply chain management of agricultural products and food ingredients. The Olam-Chemonics-USAID partnership has provided over 10,000 farmers with secure markets, high quality inputs, access to commercial finance, and technical assistance to produce high quality rice. It has also increased rice farmers' yields by over 200% and their net incomes by more than 230% between 2006 and 2008. The joint venture also developed a business approach towards food security which can be used as a model for other commodities and in other countries.

WBDA is supported by the International Chamber of Commerce, UNDP and International Business Leaders Forum, in association with the Corporate Responsibility Initiative, Kennedy School of Government, and the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) and the Financial Times.

Representatives from USAID, Chemonics International and Olam Nigeria Limited attended the ceremony which took place on the eve of a high-level meeting on Millennium Development Goals hosted by the United Nations Secretary General.

USAID provides technical assistance to Nigeria's power sector



Ambassador Robin R. Sanders and NERC Chairman, Ransome Owan at the signing ceremony

U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms. Robin R. Sanders recently witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United States' National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

The agreement will enable a regulatory partnership between NARUC and NERC. The United States Government is supporting the collaboration with funding through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MI PSC) will serve as the lead entity on behalf of NARUC under this partnership, which is a part of its global regulatory network program. The partnership will serve as a vehicle for the exchange of experiences and information between U.S. and Nigerian regulatory bodies with the goal of improving regulatory practices and fostering long-term sustainable relationships between regulatory bodies in both countries. The regulators will cooperate with each other to ensure the exchange of information via executive and personnel exchanges, seminars and workshops.

Anambra governor visits USAID/Nigeria

USAID Mission Director, Ms. Sharon L. Cromer received Governor Peter Obi of Anambra state at her office in Abuja recently where they discussed development matters and USAID programs in the state.

Governor Obi was briefed on USAID's activities in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The Agency works with six partners and supports 77 sites in Anambra. At least 50 of these sites provide care for orphans and vulnerable children while community based care is given in 40 locations. Prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services are also provided in 18 centers in the state. USAID collaborators in the state include the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA) and the state branch of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

USAID also has eight anti-retroviral sites, four blood safety centers, and four injection safety centers and provides tuberculosis treatment in 17 sites in Anambra state.

In Anambra, USAID is also focusing on the promotion of agriculture, competitiveness and commercialization. Presently USAID provides support to cassava enterprise development and technical assistance in rice growing through its implementing partner, Chemonics International.



Women rice farmers taking a break at a USAID assisted farm

Governor Obi said his administration's aim is to achieve all Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The governor also invited the Mission Director and her team to visit the

state. He was accompanied by several members of his management team including Professor Stella Okunna, the commissioner of information and culture and Mr. Peter Afuba, commissioner for land matters.

156 benefit from USAID training in monitoring and evaluation

One hundred and fifty-six civil servants from Cross River and Ebonyi states attended USAID funded workshops on monitoring and evaluation recently. Most of the participants were newly recruited staff for the third phase of Nigeria's FADAMA project which directly delivers inputs and resources to farmers as a way of fighting rural poverty.

USAID's implementing partner Development Alternatives Inc. under its Restructured Economic Framework for Openness, Reform and Macroeconomic Stability (REFORMS) program provided the training for these states.

The activity is designed to support Nigeria's economic reform agenda as laid out in the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). The REFORMS program aims to improve the policy environment and address major impediments to economic growth in Nigeria. Program components include budgetary process and procurement oversight; capacity building for Government of Nigeria institutions and civil society organizations involved in the policy process; and implementation of policy reforms in key sectors.

REFORMS employs a mix of technical assistance, training, and institutional capacity building to address core issues in fiscal planning and the budget process, poverty reduction, the business environment, policy reform advocacy, financial sector development and other policy areas that may be identified.

A component of this assistance is the provision of training for community facilitators who can achieve implementation of agricultural projects at the grass roots

level through reporting, monitoring and evaluating progress to established targets. The workshops were designed to increase program management skills of the trainees by sharing effective methodologies for planning, evaluation and designing agricultural activities. The trainees were staff of the two states' agricultural ministries, planning commissions and agricultural development programs.

The United States, through USAID, provides support for economic growth by strengthening economic policies and frameworks in Nigeria.

USAID Deputy Mission Director commissions human trafficking database and VSAT

The fight against human trafficking in Nigeria received a boost on September 4 when USAID/Nigeria Deputy Mission Director, Ms. Mikaela Meredith commissioned a database and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) equipment at the headquarters of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic In Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) in Abuja. The equipment is part of assistance USAID provided to the Government of Nigeria through its implementing partner, the American Bar Association (ABA).

The database forms the nucleus of NAPTIP's national monitoring center which is linked to the six NAPTIP zonal offices, the Nigeria Immigration Services and Nigeria Police Force's trafficking in persons unit. The Italian government had earlier donated computer servers to the monitoring center. The database will be accessible to all law enforcement agencies and to civil society organizations active in the prevention of trafficking in persons. However, access to sensitive data will be restricted to the relevant agencies to protect the integrity of the data and the privacy of the individuals.

USAID implementing partner ABA worked with NAPTIP to assess the required equipment, identify qualified vendors and service providers, and oversee procurement

and installations. ABA will also provide training for officers from the relevant agencies to effectively use the database. ABA has partnered with NAPTIP, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Immigration Services, the judiciary, and other law enforcement agencies to build the capacity of law enforcement officers, prosecutors and the judiciary to detect, investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate cases of trafficking in persons.

Nigeria is a source, destination and transit country for human trafficking. The country is a signatory to the United Nations human trafficking protocol and has passed the Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement Act in 2003. The act led to the establishment of NAPTIP, which is the Government of Nigeria's response to addressing the scourge of trafficking in persons in Nigeria and its attendant human abuses. It is also a fulfillment of her international obligation under the trafficking in persons protocol supplementing the Transnational Organized Crime Convention.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ms. Meredith expressed delight that the U.S. Government and the American people through USAID have been able to support this important project. She described human trafficking as a form of modern day slavery that involves intolerable human rights violations. "Aside from abusing fundamental human rights and degrading all our humanity, trafficking is linked to other very grave problems that we must not allow to persist, let alone to grow. Trafficking is a public health threat that spreads HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Trafficking is also a global security threat because profits from trafficking perpetuate more crime and violence" she observed.

While expressing gratitude for the assistance the U.S. Government had provided to date, Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mrs. Carol Ndaguba was of the view that the database will be of great assistance in fighting human trafficking in Nigeria.

Also at the commissioning was ABA Chief of Party, Mr. Reed Slack who noted that the database will enable law enforcement and

civil society organizations to collect and analyze data with respect to all facets of human trafficking. Senior law enforcement officers and the media were present at the commissioning. USAID has been providing assistance in combating human trafficking in Nigeria for the last three years.

USAID will work with states that are reform champions says Mission Director

USAID Mission Director, Ms. Sharon L. Cromer emphasized the importance of USAID working with state governments that are reform minded and can demonstrate successes and serve as models. She said this during a briefing by USAID's partner, Chemonics International, which is implementing Maximizing Agricultural Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites (MARKETS) project. MARKETS' local partners, state government representatives, private agribusiness manufacturers, bankers, policymakers and other stakeholders were also at the briefing. Ms. Cromer also recommended private public partnership which are founded on common development and business objectives.

In reviewing lessons learned during MARKETS' interventions, Managing Director of MARKETS, Dr. Dick Cook explained that it is possible for smallholder farmers to transform Nigeria's agriculture into a more commercial and competitive sector with the development of service markets. He also stressed the critical importance of quality control and market driven sales right from the farm gate.

MARKETS assisted rice ventures located in five states have increased productivity by 233% this year while the volume of rice processed increased by 62%. Cowpea production in targeted states also increased by 250% and created 1,081 new jobs. In total, MARKETS is providing an estimated 12,000 new jobs in the agribusiness chain with revenues of \$42.35 million this year. The implementing partner has been in the forefront of promoting the commercialization

of rice, sorghum and cowpea in selected states since 2005.

Also attending the briefing were USAID Deputy Mission Director, Ms. Mikaela Meredith and members of USAID's Agriculture and Trade team and Program Office. Others included the vice president of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Shettima Mustafa; Mr. Chris Okoye of the South East Economic Commission; Mrs. Beatrice Okonkwo, representative of the Anambra state government; and Alhaji Abdulkadir Idris of the Nigeria Agricultural Credit and Rural Development Bank.

Education is social vaccine for HIV/AIDS says Deputy Mission Director

Education is a social vaccine in the fight against HIV/AIDS because it lifts the vulnerable out of poverty and gives them prevention skills. This was the theme of remarks given by USAID/Nigeria Deputy Mission Director, Ms. Mikaela Meredith while commissioning the science laboratory block of SS Peter and Paul Academy, Egume in Kogi state on September 19.

USAID provides assistance to the school through its implementing partner, Catholic Relief Services, which operates Scale Up Nigeria (SUN), a faith based program to improve the quality of life of orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. The program covers selected dioceses in Benue, Kaduna, Plateau, Niger, Kogi, Nasarawa and Edo states and the Federal Capital Territory.

The ten year old school started as a nursery and primary school before adding a secondary wing in 2006. It provides education for about 180 orphans and vulnerable children identified by the SUN project. Resources to build the science laboratory were provided through a block grant given to the school in return for the long term education of orphans and vulnerable children. With this expansion, the school can now accommodate more than 250 orphans.

Ms. Meredith further acknowledged that it is through education that children can have a future and dispel the myths surrounding HIV infection. She thanked the government and people of Kogi state for demonstrating the endless possibilities that can come through partnerships and promised the Nigerian people continued support through the generous donations of the American people.



Beneficiaries of the science laboratory

Also at the ceremony was the Minister of State for Education, Honorable Jerry Agada who commissioned a block of classrooms and library which was donated by an indigene of the community, Senator Nicholas Ugbane. The land for construction of the science laboratory and block of classrooms was donated by the Onu (traditional ruler) of Egume.

Avian Influenza update

The outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus that began in Southeast Asia in late 2003 has rapidly spread across the globe, ultimately arriving in Nigeria in February of 2006. Since then, 25 states and the Federal Capital Territory have recorded outbreaks involving 97 local government areas. Approximately 1.3 million birds have been culled and a total of N 623,077,880 (\$5.3 million) has been paid as compensation to 2,733 affected farmers.

Just prior to this outbreak, the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), donated US\$1 million to aid the Government of Nigeria (GON) in its quest to prepare and

respond to the deadly pathogen. These funds have been utilized to enhance and improve activities including surveillance, detection, reporting, diagnosis, response, and containment. Training of personnel under the auspices of a train-the-trainer program covering risk, bio-security, communication, decontamination, laboratory diagnosis, and personal protective measures. In addition, USAID has contributed laboratory and decontamination kits and more than 40,000 sets of Personal Protective Equipment to aid in the control and containment of Avian Influenza.

Before the most recent outbreak of July 24, 2008, the last reported outbreak was October 6, 2007 - a ten month span between outbreaks. This exemplifies the positive effect that the extensive training, technical assistance, and resources dedicated by the United States Government (USG) have had on the GON's capability to control Avian Influenza.

USAID sponsors first Nigerian trade fair for private health sector

Nigeria's first ever private health sector trade fair took place in Lagos last August with 492 participants attending. The fair was organized by USAID implementing partner PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER HEALTH, had "Growth and Sustainability of Private Health Providers" as the theme of the fair.

Private medical providers including doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and private hospitals attended the event where they exchanged ideas about the potentials of the private health sector in Nigeria.

Also in attendance were banks and other financial institutions interested in doing business with private medical providers, as well as medical equipment suppliers, pharmaceutical suppliers and distributors. The fair was supported by the Health and Managed Care Association of Nigeria, the Nigeria Private Nurses and Midwives Association, the Association of Community

Pharmacists of Nigeria and the Guild of Medical Directors of Nigeria.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR BETTER HEALTH is a project funded by USAID to scale up family planning and reproductive health services provided through Nigerian HMOs. An aspect of their work is creating linkages between financial institutions and private health providers to increase access to finance for private health care providers leading to the growth of their private practices. Training has also been given to private providers in effective management of private health practices and provision of technical updates in key preventive care areas including family planning, malaria, nutrition and routine immunization.

SUCCESS STORIES

“USAID has put me back on track” says rehabilitated deportee

In Janet’s (not real name) thirty years on earth, she could have had it a lot better. Growing up in Benin, Edo state as one of 25 children from seven wives, she was expelled from home for getting pregnant. Maltreated while staying with her boyfriend’s family, she stowed away to Italy through the Sahara desert passage, where she was forced into prostitution. Janet was arrested and detained for three months before deportation to Lagos, with “only the clothes on her back.”

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that involves intolerable human rights violations. Aside from the abuse of fundamental human rights and degradation humanity, trafficking is linked to other social and health issues. Trafficking is a public health threat that spreads HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. It also impacts negatively on global security because profits from trafficking perpetuate more crime and violence.

After a spell at the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic In Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP) rehabilitation

center, Janet was returned to Benin where USAID trained her in catering and hotel management. On graduation, USAID is providing further mentoring and entrepreneurial skills that will enable her to run her own business successfully. Through local partner Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons, USAID is enabling Janet and 14 others to learn entrepreneurial skills the practical way: by running their own business. For one year, they will run a small restaurant as a commercial activity, after which they should have saved enough to set up their own enterprises, either as groups, partners or individuals, giving way to another set of beneficiaries.



Jennifer Ero, Executive Director of the Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons, at the society’s cooperative restaurant project (ABA)

Janet has reunited with her parents and son and has nothing but praises for USAID’s intervention and help in putting her life in the right direction. More important, she has renounced any urge to return to the life of a commercial sex worker because she sees herself as an empowered person who earns a legitimate income. “The program gives one hope to enable us to stand on our own” she says.

USAID’s assistance to orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria

Agnes is a 43 year old widow with four children. She lives in Agenebode, Edo state and is the caregiver to two other children who lost their parents to HIV/AIDS. In spite of her relatively poor circumstances, she copes with life, feeding her family from the proceeds of her trade in staple foodstuff (rice and cowpea). She is one of the many

caregivers whom USAID/Nigeria is assisting economically to provide parental care to thousands of orphans and vulnerable children. The Mission has been strengthening the capacities of families to protect and care for orphans and vulnerable children by providing business education, equipment and in-kind grants for income generating activities for people living with HIV/AIDS and people affected by AIDS. Full of praises, Agnes is most grateful. “God will reward you for what you have done”, she says.



Acada learning center, Okpella, Edo state

With the largest population in Africa, Nigeria is home to an estimated 1.2 million children who have been orphaned or made vulnerable to HIV infection as a result of having lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Despite advances in care and treatment, the numbers of orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria will continue to increase in the coming years.

A few miles away in Okpella town, 25 pupils between the age of five and eleven are listening to their teacher at Utayoke Primary School. You could easily assume this to be a normal Nigerian primary school where children learn their three ‘Rs’. But this is not a regular school. Welcome to the Acada learning center in Okpella. It is one of the 11 Acada learning centers for orphans and vulnerable children funded by USAID. Over 2,100 Nigerian children, who routinely would not be able to attend school due to HIV/AIDS, are provided with numeracy and literacy skills before they are integrated back into the regular school system.

The curriculum also provides tutoring in English, life skills and mentoring activities

which prepare these children for their transition back into formal education. The children are taught for three hours in the afternoon, five days a week and are provided with books, writing materials, uniforms, sandals and school bags for the ten months they spend at the learning centers. Nutritional and psycho-socio support is also provided.

The centers also receive support from traditional rulers and their local communities. For example, Alhaji Tafida Abubakar Ila, the emir of Rano in Kano state, mobilized the local elite to support 75 orphans and vulnerable children at the Acada learning center in the town. In this case, they pay the salaries of the teachers and provide school materials and food supplements for the pupils. This is the outcome of an advocacy visit to the emir by Umah Support Group, a local USAID partner.

USAID/Nigeria is also involved in raising awareness through advocacy and social mobilization to create a supportive environment for children affected by HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma and discrimination against them. For out of school youth, the Mission provides preventive education and skills to protect them from HIV infection.

Through funding from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), USAID is working with other United States Government (USG) agencies and the Government of Nigeria to support nearly 67,000 orphans and vulnerable children in 20 out of 36 states in Nigeria.

The United States, through USAID and other USG agencies in Nigeria, provides ongoing support to fight HIV/AIDS as part of its broader policy priority to invest in people. Investing in People is one of the central pillars of our Framework for Partnership with Nigeria.

Akua and Croshelle's send forth

With smiles and sighs, lots of food, music and dance, the USAID/Nigeria family sent off Akua Kwateng-Addo and Croshelle Harris - HPN team leader and Education Officer respectively. Akua has assumed duties as Health Office Director at USAID/Senegal while Croshelle is now Deputy Education Officer in USAID/Pakistan. More grease to their elbows!

